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MEDIA RELEASE

**MAYOR EDDIE PEREZ PUSHING TO MAINTAIN INSURANCE JOBS IN
HARTFORD**

(2/2/05) Hartford--

Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez is continuing his efforts to try and keep 1,800 insurance jobs in Downtown Hartford. This comes in the wake of Metlife's announced purchase of Travelers Life and Annuity. Mayor Perez has spoken with State Insurance Commissioner Susan Cogswell, and has written letters to her and State Attorney General Richard Blumenthal regarding two very important points--- employment and philanthropy.

Mayor Perez says, "The loss of these high wage jobs in Downtown Hartford, coupled with the elimination of a substantial amount of charitable giving, would have a significant detrimental impact on the city, region, and state. I know you agree we should do all we can to mitigate any potential harm to Hartford and the region as a result of the purchase of Travelers."

Mayor Perez believes both jobs and charitable giving are essential to the public's benefit. He once again pledges his commitment to work with New York based Metlife, in order to grow its presence in Hartford.